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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: MEIER et al

#S PRE  
AMDT  
A

Serial No.:

Filed: April 13, 2000

For: Method For Increasing The Wear Resistance  
Of A Work Piece

Group:

Examiner:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 13, 2000

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits of this application and prior to calculation  
of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 4, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 5, line 1, delete "one of claims 1 to 4" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 1, delete "one of claims 1 to 5" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 8, line 1, delete "one of claims 1 to 7" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 11, line 1, delete "one of claims 8 to 10" and insert --claim 8--.

Claim 12, line 1, delete "one of claims 8 to 11" and insert --claim 8--.